fertilizers, in view of the beneficial aspects of the organic manure and adverse effects of the chemical fertilizers both on the quality of agricultural produce and the fertility of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government has taken measures to popularize organic manure and increase its usage under different schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation such as the National Project on Organic Farming, the National Project for Management of Soil Health and Fertility etc. because of its beneficial impact on soil health.

Though imbalanced and injudicious use of chemical fertilizers has been observed to have affected soil health and productivity in some parts of the country, balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers is not known to adversely affect quality of agricultural produce or soil fertility. Keeping in view the imperative of increasing agricultural production, it is not feasible to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in the country as a whole.

Insurance scheme to protect cash crops farmers

*496. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any plans to extend the insurance scheme under the Agriculture Ministry to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to protect the cash crops, farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two insurance schemes *i.e.* National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under both the schemes, food, oilseeds and annualcommercial/horticultural crops are covered. Plantation and Cash Crops such as tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco are not covered under these schemes. However, Department of Commerce is already implementing Weather (Rainfall) Insurance as a Risk Management Support for Coffee Growers and have formulated a proposal on crop insurance scheme for tea, rubber, tobacco and some spices.

Construction of new station at Nedumbassery

*497. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for construction of a new railway station at Nedumbassery to make better rail connectivity with Nedumbassery Airport, which is one of the fast developing international airports in the western coast of the peninsula; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) A Memorandum has been received from Shri M. Vijayakumar, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala on 18.6.2009. One of the items in the Memorandum is regarding construction of new railway station at Nedumbassery to provide connectivity to the International airport at Nedumbassery. The matter is under examination.

Increasing number of cancer patients

*498. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of new cancer patients is increasing by one lakh annually;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out the reasons for the increasing number of cancer patients in the country, particularly food pipe/breast cancer amongst women;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the strategies to be adopted to make Government hospitals/health centres equipped to handle such cases, free of cost; and

(e) the fiscal allocation made to combat increasing number of cancer cases for the last three years till the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Health being a state subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However, according to the population based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Program of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there are about nine lakhs new cancer cases occurring every year in the country. Further, the estimated annual increase in the incidence of new cancer cases is about 17000. There are several factors in the causation of these cancers but the exact reasons are still not known clearly.

Central Government has evolved a comprehensive cancer control strategy *i.e.* National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) where emphasis has been laid down on awareness, prevention, early detection and treatment. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities. Diagnosis and treatment of cancer is available in the health care delivery system at various levels in Districts Hospitals, Medical Colleges and tertiary apex centers. There are 27 Regional Cancer Centres for comprehensive